

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1412

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to commend family-owned Neely's Bar-B-Que upon twenty years of providing award-winning and succulent barbecue to its customers.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those fine dining establishments that serve the gastronomical needs of our citizens, while also delighting their taste buds and feeding their spirits; and

WHEREAS, Neely's Bar-B-Que is one such outstanding restaurant that has attracted a diverse and loyal clientele by providing delicious award-winning barbecue and attentive service to its many satisfied customers since its opening day in February of 1988; and

WHEREAS, twenty years ago four brothers, Gaelin, Tony, Mark, and Patrick, launched into the barbecue business, opening their first restaurant in downtown Memphis; they were following in the successful footsteps of their Uncle Jim Neely of Jim Neely's Interstate Barbecue of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, equipped with the barest restaurant essentials including, tables, chairs, and one barbecue pit, the brothers quickly built a reputation for hard work, great barbecue, and excellent customer service, and expanded to an East Memphis location in October of 1992; and

WHEREAS, with the expansion creating city-wide exposure and the need for more help, the brothers recruited their mother, Lorine, and Patrick's wife, Gina into the family business; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Neely's was voted as having the best ribs in Memphis and was featured on the *Today Show* with Al Roker after a local television station held a barbecue contest; and

WHEREAS, on the heels of this celebrated publicity, Neely's expanded into Nashville in March of 2001 with its third new location and was voted as having the best tasting ribs in that city also; and

WHEREAS, now the premier barbecue restaurant in Tennessee, Neely's has received national exposure on the *Food Network's Down Home with the Neelys*; and

WHEREAS, to meet the demands of its ever expanding customer base, Neely's sells its barbecue products at the FedEx Forum in Memphis and the Sommet Center in Nashville; the barbecue sauce is sold at local grocery stores and shipped via internet all over the country; and

WHEREAS, Gina Neely has expertly managed Neely's Catering and Tour Group Sales, expanding that area of the business to unimagined levels of success; and

WHEREAS, exhibiting great devotion to the family business, passion for the restaurant industry, and an unparalleled work ethic, the members of the Neely family have dedicated themselves to providing superior quality food and service; and

WHEREAS, the Neely's, who represent some of the finest restaurant industry minds in Tennessee, have distinguished themselves as public-spirited citizens of the highest order and as exceptional assets to their community; and

WHEREAS, the good people of Memphis and Nashville greatly appreciate the valuable contribution that the Neely family is making to the dining experience in their communities and have honored Neely's Bar-B-Que with their patronage for twenty years; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we do hereby commend and honor the Neely family of Neely's Bar-B-Que in Memphis and Nashville upon twenty years of providing authentic and delectable barbecue and exemplary customer service, as we wish these fine folks all the best in their future culinary endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.